

Lord's day? Where is the warm glow in your heart at the thought that soon you will be in the presence of the Lord and in fellowship with the saints joined together in worship? Jesus said: *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:20). Why wouldn't such a thought send your heart against your ribcage at the mere prospect that this is what you get from public worship services?

The early disciples continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and in prayers (Acts 2:42). The disciples in Troas listened to Paul preach until midnight after participating in the Lord's supper (Acts 20:7). I have preached some long sermons, brethren, but I have never caused anyone to fall asleep and fall from a third story window to the ground (vs. 9)!

Early Christians used to greet one another with a *"holy kiss"* (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26). Whatever the nature of this kiss, it was certainly chaste, and it was certainly a celebration of the love and fellowship shared among the saints. It is hard to imagine this kiss not being a joyful acknowledgement of a joyful bond of faith and fraternity between the saints of God. At the very least, we ought to greet one another with an enthusiastic handshake today and a warm, personal and loving greeting.

The Macedonians implored the apostle Paul and company with much urgency that they be allowed to participate in the relief of the needy saints in Judea (2 Corinthians 8:1-4). Although poor themselves, these Christians had given themselves first to the Lord. Truly, this service of theirs to relieve other suffering saints was a joy and was service with a smile.

Where is your smile today as you worship the Lord?

Church of Christ

306 E. Jackson St.,
West Columbia, Texas 77486
Phone: (979) 538-2175

Visit Our Website For Free Bible Study

Material:

[Http://www.westcolumbiatxcoc.com](http://www.westcolumbiatxcoc.com)

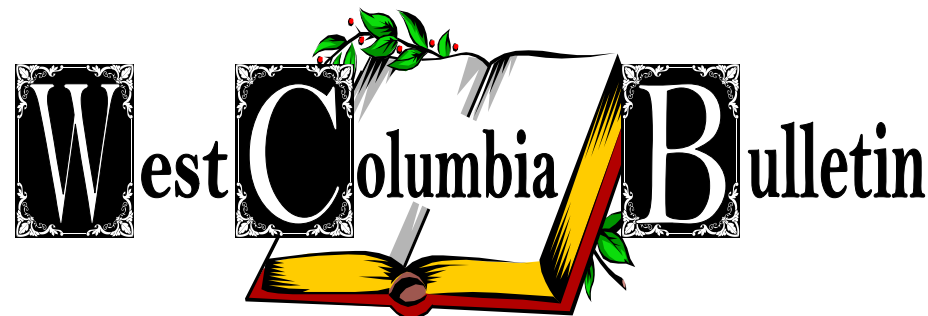
Schedule Of Services...

Sunday:

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 9:50 a.m.
Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.



November 1, 2020

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

David Weaks

There was a time when companies required their employees to provide service with a smile. In fact, from the first day of training, a new employee was told over and over: "The customer is always right." We were taught that our salaries came from the income provided by customers, and so we were going to give our customers the very best. I learned this at the bakery, the *Perry's Warehouse*, and even when I was on the lawn crew or paint crew or roofing crew in various places.

How much more important is it to give God service with a smile? John says that keeping God's commandments is the

proof of our love for God. Moreover, John said that *"His commandments are not burdensome"* (1 John 5:3). We need to remember this fact every single day of our lives. We are servants of God and of Jesus Christ. How could we not serve them with joy?

How is it in your home? Do your children hear you say: "Come on, get up, we have to go to services today!" Would it not be more correct to say, "Come on Kids, get up, we get to go serve God today!"? David said: *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'"* (Psalms 122:1).

Where is your joy on the

Why Political Ads Don't Work On Me

David Weaks

Millions of dollars have been spent by Republicans and Democrats across the land to elect state and federal congressmen, governors, and to elect the next president of the United States. ***NPR.org reports that roughly three billion dollars has been spent by the two candidates for president combined. OpenSecrets.org projects that the total cost of congressional and presidential elections in 2020 will top nearly 14 billion dollars.*** Folks, that is an astronomical amount of money, no matter how important elections are.

In every campaign season we all get piles of cards in the mail from all of the pertinent candidates. We are flooded with hand bills on the streets, placards are affixed to houses, cars, busses, buildings, and signs festoon millions of lawns, touting the candidate of that household's choice.

Then, there are the debates, the conventions, and the TV advertising, all aimed at getting

someone elected to a short term office.

I don't know about you, but none of those things affect me. I have made up my mind who I will vote for, in every election cycle, very early on in a campaign cycle. So all of this constant assault by the media and the printers is wasted on me.

There is only one document that helps me decide who I will vote for - it is the Bible. I decide what issues the issues in society are, and then I examine the platform of the candidates, and I decide according to the teachings of the Bible who will get my vote, based on the Bible's teachings. That's it. That's what I do. None of the mailings, debates, or TV spots ever sway me. Never have I seen a flyer so clever that it has made me reject my concept of truth and moral right.

After this week, we will know (most likely) who the next president of the United States will be. As always, half of the country will be happy, and half

will be miserable.

However, I will go right on whatever happens living my life for the Lord. Jesus Christ is my king (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15; Revelation 17:14). I harbor no delusions that any of the people running for public office is going to cause a renaissance of godliness and purity to return to our nation.

However, there is a document that I pay strict attention to that has the power to do exactly that. It is powerful enough to change minds, hearts, and lives, and it has the power to change a nation that is on a disastrous course. That document, of course, is the Bible.

Paul the apostle said that the scripture "*is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for correction, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It contains everything that pertains to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3).

The following may be a revelation to you, and if it is, maybe you should sit down: ***Candidates for public office often lie in order to get your vote.*** However, the word of God

is truth (John 17:17). There is no error in it anywhere. The author of it is the very source of truth that sets men free from sins (John 8:32).

Not only that, but its author, the God of heaven, is not partial to anyone (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25). His judgment will always be without partiality, and he will properly apply the Law of God to all men. He will hold everyone of us accountable to the same august standard that men and women have been held to since the institution of the Lord's church - the New Testament. Each of us will face a judgment based upon what we have done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10).

The political ads on the TV and the ones coming through your mailbox all want you to feel like a vote for that particular candidate makes you a good and responsible person. The problem with voting for humans is that you never really know until they are in office, and sometimes not until the history of their term has been written many years later, whether they were good or not.

However, the Bible, the only advertising that affects my judgment says that my King is good. He is just (1 John 1:9; 3:7).